(b) if so, what are the details thereof and other military equipment which Pakistan has been obtaining from China;

(c) whether is it also a fact that Pakistani Chief of Naval Staff who was recently in Beijing had signed an agreement for the supply of two to three "W" submarines to Pakistan has been obtaining Chinese assistance in defence production as well; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what will be its impact on the defence and Security of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government understands that military cooperation between China and Pakistan includes the supply of aircraft, tanks and other military hardware by China to Pakistan.

(c) and (d) Government have no confirmed information that any contract was signed for the supply of Chinese submarines to Pakistan during the visit. Government are, however, aware of the Chinese assistance to Pakistan in the field of defence production.

Government keep under constant review all developments having a bearing on the country's security and appropriate counter measures are taken.

Heavy Naval presence in Gulf

1108. DR. YALAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government in view of heavy naval presence in the Gulf; and

(b) whether Government propose to initiate a dialogue with the concerned countries with a view to ensuring peace in the above zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI): (a) and (b) Government have consistently stressed that the escalation of Great Power naval presences in the Gulf is aggravating tension in the region. These views have been conveyed to the parties concerned. Government have welcomed the acceptance by the Islamic Republic of Iran of UN Security Council Resolution 598 and are in contact with all concerned with a view to securing implementation of the resolution through the good offices of the UN Secretary General.

Acquisition of Guided Missile Frigates by Pakistan

1109. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Pakistan is acquiring some Brooke Class Guided Missile Frigates from United States to augment its maritime attack capability;

(b) whether Government possess such sophisticated naval ships to meet the challenges posed by Pakistan in the maritime border; and

(c) if so, what are the naval ships possessed by our country to save our maritime belt from Pakistan attack?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It would not be in the national security interest to disclose details.